

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



2 H D 1757  
5532

# Small-Scale Agriculture Today

Office for Small-Scale Agriculture



SUMMER 1995

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

Agricultural Research For A Better Tomorrow

## AT ISSUE . . . YOUR COMMUNITY

Heifer Project International (HPI) is a private, charitable organization that provides livestock, training, and technical support so that limited-resource rural families and communities around the world can help themselves by producing food, fiber, and income through animal agriculture.

An essential part of HPI's philosophy is the understanding that each person who receives an animal will "pass on the gift" by giving one or more female offspring from each animal received to another family in need. Thus, the gift keeps on growing, and each recipient becomes a donor.

HPI has been working with groups of limited-resource farmers in North America since 1947. More than 200 projects in 32 states and one Canadian province have been supported. Over the years, HPI has provided many types of livestock as well as seeds, veterinary supplies, training, materials, and technical support.

HPI envisions a future in which rural families achieve

- a satisfying quality of life,
- economically viable family farms and ranches,
- fertile, productive and living soils,
- healthy rural communities, and
- security on the land for which they care.

To make this vision a reality, HPI responds to requests from groups and organizations and promotes diversified, sustainable, and ecologically sound family-scale agriculture.

Community building is at the core of HPI's work. The process begins as families and individuals join together to discuss their needs and agree on solutions. By working with the support of an HPI Field Representative, they create a plan and a proposal to submit to HPI. The livestock-related activities they decide to undertake for the benefit of their own community become the basis for

their partnership with HPI.

Every HPI project is managed by a local organization or a group of member farmers. While these groups welcome people of all income ranges, only those members who meet local financial guidelines and other criteria are eligible to receive livestock through HPI. Thus, a group might include a wide mix of folks, including some with project animals, some with livestock of their own, and some who are just interested in agriculture, but have no animals.

Establishing a partnership with HPI to start a livestock project can be an exciting and rewarding opportunity that benefits both you and your community. For more information, contact: Skip Polson, HPI's USA/Canada Program Director, P.O. Box 808, Little Rock, AR 72203; telephone: 1-800-422-1311. If you want to help support HPI's international work, call 1-800-422-0474.

## THANKS

The tremendous response to the OSSA appeal to update your mailing address, eliminate duplicate mailings, provide 9-digit zip codes, and enclose typed, self-addressed gummed labels with your requests was very much appreciated. Topics, technologies, and calendar of events (yours) are very important to the OSSA. Keep them coming!

## SPECIAL THANKS

The bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City was indeed a tragedy. Within hours, OSSA began to receive calls from constituents throughout the United States asking "what can we do to help?" First, OSSA encouraged all callers to contact the American Red Cross's (ARC) Oklahoma City hotline at 1-800-HELP NOW. An urgent request was soon broadcast for blood donations and we referred callers to the ARC blood donation hotline at 1-800-GIVE LIFE. (NOTE: There is always a need for blood donations.) Some callers



wanted to make financial contributions to assist the victims and their families. They were asked to send their donations directly to ARC Headquarters, P. O. Box 37243, Washington, DC 20013. OSSA's telephone line (202-720-5245) was busy for many days and **we thank each and every one of you for your help!**

## TOPICS AND TECHNOLOGY

**New Factsheets** - "Draft Animals" and "Northern Nut Growing" are the latest factsheets in the series "A Small-Scale Agriculture Alternative" from the USDA Office for Small-Scale Agriculture (OSSA). Free, the publications list several sources of information. Contact: Bud Kerr, USDA- OSSA (Factsheets), AG Box 2244, Washington, DC 20250-2244; telephone: 202-720-5245; fax: 202-205-2448. **NOTE: Be sure to enclose a typed, self-addressed, gummed label with your request!**

**New High** - "U.S. Agricultural exports in the last quarter of 1994 were a record \$14.1 billion, a surge that pushed exports to a record \$45.7 billion." (*The Cotton Gin and Oil Mill Press*, May 13, 1995, p. 23.)

**Dear Children** - Get to know flowers better by looking for them and perhaps even growing them. The 41-page *Ten Flower Stories for Children* costs \$5. Contact: Jill Ann Williams, Sudden Elegance, Ltd., 3724 Cedar Drive, Baltimore, MD 21207; telephone: 410-944-5547.

**Costs \$10** - Yes, the Garden Spike is an ugly tool that is really useful to weed, plant, edge, hammer, cut, and dig. Contact: Mark Nyffler, M&M Manufacturing, RR 4, Box 23, Columbus, NE; telephone: 402-564-0910.

**Good Point!** - "If there is something unsightly in your garden that you cannot get rid of and really cannot hide (like a telephone pole or a fire hydrant), create a colorful focal point away from the object to draw attention in that direction and lessen the effect on a problem area." (*Today's Garden*, May 1995, p. 2)

**Specialties** - "Dutch growers of hothouse tomatoes are trying to distinguish their product by marketing variety, and will begin distributing a new poster soon to help finalize the trade in this country with each variety and its packaging." (*The Produce News*, May 8, 1995, p. 25)

**And Another** - "From England, ready-to-serve whole baby beets in vacuum-sealed plastic packs. The technology that is being used to package the beets has become very popular in Europe with potatoes and other root vegetables." (*The Produce News*, May 8, 1995, p. 30).

**Crispy Crunchy** - *Summer in a Jar: Making Pickles, Jams, and More* is 160 pages long and costs \$11.45. Contact: June C. Roelle, Williamson Publishing, Box 185, Charlotte, VT 05445; telephone: 1-800-234-8791.

**Tip** - Plant wisely when adding trees or shrubs to your home grounds; consider the type and ultimate size and in relation to selected location.

**Now You Know** - According to the 1992 Census of Agriculture, there are 1,925,350 farms in the United States. This is the first decade since 1850 that our Nation has had less than 2 million farms!

**Parasitic Fly** - Preliminary field tests in Brazil point to *Pseudacteon* flies as a natural way to combat the stinging fire ants native to South America and invaders of 11 Southern States and Puerto Rico. Studies show that the fly attacks only fire ants and does not attack beneficial insects or humans. Contact: Sanford Porter, USDA-ARS, Medical and Veterinary Entomology Research Laboratory, P.O. Box 14565, Gainesville, FL 32604; telephone: 904-374-5914; fax: 904-704-5818.

**Alert!** - "The new whitefly strain, also known as silver-leaf whitefly, has caused more than \$200 million damage annually to U.S. crops since 1991. Besides cotton, it attacks dozens of vegetative and ornamental crops mainly in Arizona, California, Florida, and Texas." (*Quarterly Report*, January - March 1995, p. 9)

**Good Reading** - The new 64-page, softcover *Cornerstones, Volume III*, is even better than the two earlier volumes! Cost: \$8.95 each; any two \$14.95, or three for \$19.95. Contact: Progressive Farmer, Cornerstone Books, Box 830069, Birmingham, AL 35283-0069.

**Slug & Bug Trap** - A safe, efficient, organic nontoxic: "Slug Saloon." For a free catalogue, contact: Peaceful Valley Farm Supply, P.O. Box 2209, Grass Valley, CA 95945; telephone: 916-272-4769.

**Pertinent Information** - Learn what, why, and how to from 368 pages of facts and figures in *The Great Food Almanac*. Costs \$27.75, plus your state's sales tax. Contact: Harper-Collins, P.O. Box 588, Dunmore, PA 18512; telephone: 1-800-331-3761.

**Get This Publication** - *Tips on Land Water Management for Small Farms and Ranches in Montana*. Regardless of where you live, evaluate your land and make a plan for your property. Contact: Allyson Lyle, Conservation District Bureau Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, P. O. Box 202301, Helena, MT 59620-2301; telephone: 406-444-6667.

**Roses** - Graham Stewart Thomas is internationally known for his work in gathering and popularizing old and new shrub roses. The enlarged and thoroughly revised 385-page *Rose Book* costs \$46.45, and is for anyone who has a serious interest in roses. Contact: Sue Korpela, Timber Press, Inc., 133 S.E. Second Avenue, Suite 450, Portland, OR 97204-3527; telephone: 1-800-327-5680.

**Advice on Everything** - The 726-page book *The Gardener's Complete Q&A* is a complete and authoritative reference, indispensable tool, and delightful inspiration for every gardener. The cost is \$43.20. Contact: Storey Communications, P. O. Box 445, Pownal, VT 05261-9988; telephone: 1-800-441-5700.



**Down Under** - From Australia: *160 Alternative Farming Enterprises and Ideas*. The 112-page paperback is available postpaid for \$24. Contact: Greg Cahill, Bendigo Department of Agriculture, Box 2500, Bendigo Mail Centre, Bendigo, Victoria 3550, Australia; telephone: 61-54-304444; fax: 61-54- 484982.

**A Hit!** - Holland's latest tomato marketing idea - "on the vine," "bunch," or "Thos" is being noticed. "The new item is tomatoes that are shipped still clinging to the vine in small clusters or bunches, fully ripe, and full of flavor." (*The Produce News*, April 24, 1995, p. 18)

**Great Idea** - Added Value: Mulling spices in a tea bag. Convenient, one bag to one cup of apple cider heated on the stove or in the microwave. For more information, contact: Richard Denchfield, Olde Plantation Spice, 125 Spring Street, Gaithersburg, MD 20877; telephone: 1-800-977-1117.

**Correction** - Sorry! In the last issue of this newsletter, the price for the publication, *Direct Marketing of Farm Produce and Home Goods* was incorrect. It should have read: Price \$4.55.

Our apologies for the incorrect information.

**St. Croix Sheep** - "You can breed them outside the usual sheep-breeding season and this means you could produce three lambs per ewe in 24 months, versus the usual two. That's a 33 percent increase in productivity." (Comments from Michael A. Brown, USDA-ARS, South Central Family Farms Research Center, Highway 23 South, Rte 2, Box 144-A, Bonneville, AR 72927-9214; telephone: 501-675-3834. (*Agricultural Research*, June 1995, p. 5).)

**Tip** - After plants are dug, they should be covered with moist burlap and kept in the shade so there will be little loss of water from the plants.

**Who Gets What** - According to USDA estimates, last year Americans spent about \$617 billion on food; 55 percent for food at home, and 45 percent for food elsewhere.

**How To** - *Basic Butchering of Livestock and Game*, by John J. Mettler, Jr., DVM, is a "must- have book" for anyone who is slaughtering. The cost is \$15.20. Contact: Storey Communication, P. O. Box 445, Pownal, VT 05261-9988; telephone: 1-800-441-5700.

**Peaches** - The commonly recommended distance for thinning peaches along a shoot is from six to eight inches, depending upon the size naturally attained by the variety being thinned.

**Stamp of Approval** - "The U. S. Postal Service has issued a new self-adhesive 32 cent pink rose stamp (on June 2) that gardeners may like to use on their correspondence. The stamp is a recycle of the design of the 29-cent rose, self-adhesive stamp of 1993. But this stamp has a pink rose instead of a red one." (The Bowie Crofton Garden Club, *The Gardener*, June 1995.)

## WHAT'S ON TAPE?

Daily, more and more excellent videos are brought to OSSA's attention. The following selections are worthy of your consideration and dollars! The tapes provide specific information or a realistic view and enough information for the viewer to decide whether the enterprise or technique is worth pursuing.

- **Natural Resources Income Opportunities**  
23 minutes; costs \$18 each. Checks payable to University of Maryland  
Mail to: Cooperative Extension Service, Distance Education and Outreach Communications, 0119 Symons Hall, College Park, MD 20742; telephone: 301-405-4581.
- **Holly Shimizu's Video Guide to Growing and Using Herbs**  
60 minutes; costs \$28.50 each. Checks payable to: Audio Visual Artists' Productions (AVAP).  
Mail to: Ruth S. Slade, 1412 Northeast Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904-1453; telephone: 301-384-9595.
- **Tractors, Combines and Things on the Grow**  
30 minutes; costs \$23.90. Checks payable to: Just Our Size Videos. Mail to: Patty Schindler, 14010 Falls Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030; telephone: 410-584-7053.

### Two videos from Mississippi:

- **Insect Pests of Greenhouse Tomatoes with Extension Entomologist Pat Harris**  
15 minutes; cost: \$10 each.
- **Diseases of Greenhouse Tomatoes with Extension Plant Pathologist Frank Calibre**  
35 minutes; cost: \$10 each. Checks payable to: Agricultural Communications.  
Mail to: Mississippi State University, Office of Agriculture Communications, Box 9625, Mississippi State, MS 39762; telephone: 601-325-2262; fax: 601-325-1710.

### Two videos from North Carolina:

- **Ways to Grow - Growing Brambles**  
17 minutes; cost: \$10 each.
- **Ways to Grow - Growing Greenhouse Tomatoes**  
13 minutes; cost: \$10 each. Checks payable to North Carolina A&T State University.  
Mail to: Sheila M. Whitley, AV Specialist, NCA&TSU, P. O. Box 21928, Greensboro, NC 27420; telephone: 910-334-7050.

PLEASE CIRCULATE



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 5-14, 1995** - Global Pest Resistance Management Workshop, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. Contact: Michael Bush, B.11 Pesticide Research Center, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48825; telephone: 517-355-1768.

**July 9-11, 1995** - Ohio International Floral Short Course Trade Show at the Convention Center, Cincinnati, Ohio. Contact: Deanna Terrill, 2130 Stella Court, Suite 200, Columbus, OH 43215; telephone: 614-487-1117; fax: 614-487-1216.

**July 10-11, 1995** - Industrialization of Heartland Agriculture: Challenges, Opportunities, Consequences and Alternatives, Minneapolis, MN. Contact: North Dakota State University, Department of Agricultural Economics, Box 5437, Fargo, ND 58105-5437; telephone: 701-231-8642.

**July 31-August 4, 1995** - Eastern Agricultural Society Annual Conference and Beekeeping Short Course, Wooster, OH. Contact: Kim Flottum, 623 W. Liberty Street, Medina, OH 44256; telephone: 216-725-6677, ext. 3214.

**August 3-4, 1995** - American Society for Horticultural Science (ASHS) Greenhouse Tomato Seminar, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Contact: Adrienne R. Haubert, ASHS, 113 S. West Street, Suite 400, Alexandria, VA 22314-2824; telephone: 703-836-4506, ext. 308.

**August 11-13, 1995** - Northeast Organic Farming Association's 21st Annual Summer Conference and Celebration of Rural Life, Amherst, MA. Contact: Julie Rawson, 411 Sheldon Rd., Barre, MA 01005; telephone: 508-355-2853.

**August 13-16, 1995** - 86th Annual meeting of the Northern Nut Growers Association, University of Wisconsin - River Falls, Riverfalls, WI. Contact: Tucker Hill, Secretary, NNGA, 654 Beinhower Road, Etters, PA 17319-9774; telephone: 717-938-6090.

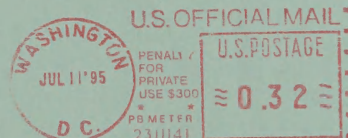
**September 11-15, 1995** - Edible Perennial Landscaping Short Course, Craftsbury Common, VT. Contact: Ann Ingerson, Sterling College, Craftsbury Common, VT 05827; telephone: 802-586-7711.

**September 15-18, 1995** - Natural Products Expo East, Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, MD. Contact: Julie Mozeleak, 1301 Spruce Street, Boulder, CO 80302; telephone: 303-939-8440.

**September 23, 1995** - Mendocino County's Wine-fest 1995, Ukiah, CA. Contact: George Rose (Fetzer Vineyards), 707-744-1250 or Alex R. Thomas, 707-462-4716.

**September 30, 1995** - Second Annual Country Living Field Day, Carrollton, OH. Contact: Mike Hogan, Ohio State University Extension, Carroll County, 119 Public Square, Carrollton, OH 44615-1498; telephone: 216-627-4310.

USDA/CSREES	27
Office for Small-Scale Agriculture	
Ag Box 2244	
Washington, DC 20250-2244	95



03017 22007/20705MAIEU 1 0001  
MR. JEFF MAIERS  
NAL  
USDA  
BELTSVILLE MD 20705